



September 1979

Violette Association

It is hard to believe that our 2nd Family Reunion has already taken place. The get-together in Augusta was a huge success. The bulk of this newsletter will consist of a report on the reunion. However, I would like to mention a few other points beforehand.

Since the Association has grown so much and our members now number over 600, I will no longer address the envelopes by hand. For a very reasonable price, our membership list can be entered on a computer and stickers sent to me for mailings. Since we are doing very well financially, we have decided to follow that route. Therefore, I have another favor to ask of you. If your envelope was addressed incorrectly in any way, please let me know immediately so that I can make the necessary corrections. For instance, I may have addressed it as only Mr. or Mrs. and it perhaps should have been both. Or, perhaps as in the past, I have written Mr. & Mrs. instead of Mrs. and also the name of a single person at home. At this time I would also like to know of any person who should be receiving a newsletter and is not, as well as any change of address. The list will be sent to the computer company by the end of October. Again I ask your help and as soon as possible. Also, if I have inadvertently included a child's name on the membership list, please notify me. Another reason that the corrections are so important is that the next newsletter will be sent out in bulk mailing rates of either $2\frac{1}{4}$ cents or $8\frac{1}{4}$ cents, whichever we qualify for. Bulk mail is never returned to the sender so it is important that all addresses are correct. Initial fees for this mailing permit will be made for 1980. Therefore the next newsletter will be sent in early January instead of late December.

Our condolences go out to Florence Violette Hyland and Nathan Hyland #164 & 165. Since our last newsletter Florence's son, George Muise, has passed away. Also our deepest sympathy to Marie Violette Vaillancourt #34, Guy Vaillancourt #154, and Pauline Vaillancourt Desrochers #152, who have lost their daughter and sister, Therese Vaillancourt Gagnon. And, our congratulations to Nicole Violette Laforge and Johnny Laforge #301 & 302, who recently gave birth to a daughter. They have named her Andrée Violette Laforge.

Due to the length of this newsletter, I will not continue to list the names and addresses of our members. However, I will do so the next time around.

I would like to say a special thank you to the reunion committee for a job well done. This committee consisted of Mrs. Rita Clavette, Mrs. Audie Lambert, Mrs. Solange Lausier, Mrs. Jeannette Betit, Mrs. Florence Labbe, Edgard Violette, Rene Violette, Amedee Violette and last but not least, Maurice Violette. Thanks also to all their sisters and brothers, husbands and wives, who gave all their support and assistance.

"We Are One"

Rita Violette Lippe

The 1979 Violette Reunion Roundup

The Second Violette Reunion started with a great deal of activity. Promptly at 1 p.m., August 4, 1979, arrivals from all points in Maine, from other states as well as Canada began to filter in at the Registration Table. There was a constant flow throughout the afternoon as over 500 "cousins" came in to browse, converse, and renew ties which had been allowed to become isolated if not totally estranged by so many years and generations who lost contact.

The display areas contained many documents of the past with artifacts relating to the "old days." Geneological records so well assembled by Rita Violette Lippe received most of the attention. Many photographs of past and present cousins added color to the display. The story of Charles Violet of Louisbourg was there for all to see and geneological charts of those attending for the first time ringed the walls of the hall (The building is 100'X60').

Many groups were noted to be quite agitated when recognizing a "long lost" cousin. Others were captivated by the manner in which "strangers" were able to stay and talk to other "strangers" and find a connecting familial bond. The atmosphere was one which could not be duplicated in any other endeavor. There really was no stranger in the hall--all were related. Hopefully, bonds were established which through the coming year will continue to grow.

At 3 p.m., a business meeting was called to order by Reunion Chairman Maurice Violette. Rita Lippe gave a status report of the financial position of the Violette Asso. and expounded on the fact the movement has been very active since our first meeting in Methuen, Mass. in 1978. Other business conducted was the formal acceptance of permanent officers: President - Mrs. Rita Violette Lippe; Vice Pres. Joseph Violette; Sec. Celeste Lippe; and Treasurer - Robert Lippe. In addition, a policy was adopted that in all Reunions, the local Chairman and his Committee would be in charge of all events and would conduct all business as necessary. Further, and most important, was the gracious offer from our Van Buren "cousins" to host the next Reunion in that city. Without discussion it was the consensus of everyone present that it belonged in that area and that it would be scheduled for 1981 in concert with the Bi-Centennial Celebration of the founding of that city. We thank our "cousins" from Van Buren for voluntarily accepting this task and we wish to add that we will be available for such assistance as they may desire. So it's on to VanBuren (or is it Violette Brook?) in 1981.

The business terminated, after a short recess to clear the tables, Father Chanel Violette celebrated Mass in which we all expressed our appreciation that the Violette Clan will continue to prosper. Cousin Chanel expressed it in that Violettes grow everywhere and are ever on the move as if on the winds -- like the seeds of the dandelion.

After the Mass, another intermission to prepare for the banquet which was served at about 7:15 p.m. ~~169~~ were served in a sit-down dinner! We appreciate the cooperation of Le Club Calumet for their great effort to keep the event moving.

The banquet featured some geneology update on Charles, his son Francois, and their predecessor Louis of Villejesus, France by the Chairman. Rita Lippe requested the help of all members to keep her informed of current addresses and for newcomers to register and join in order to place them on the mailing list. Remember, there are no dues! "Cousin" Elmer Violette, Van Buren, provided an in-depth review of the pioneers of the St. John River Valley and the efforts, especially of Francois to develop and maintain the area. After the banquet, a grand evening of dancing and socializing followed with a great many who were still able after a full day of activity, relaxed and enjoyed the music and the Violette heritage. Brother Maurice Violette, OMA gave the invocation and Father Chanel Violette provided the closing prayer.

Many have requested that we include new information discovered since the last Reunion and we are pleased to do so. So we start with Charles:

1. Charles Violet left Rochefort, France, in May of 1749 on board the French Ship "L'Intrepide" in company with 74 other families. The convoy, organized by the King of France was designed to furnish transportation to Isle Royale, Acadia, and points west, for the people of the Charente River Valley in France in order to bolster that land in defense against the British who were attempting to dislodge them. The convoy consisted of 14 ships all containing passengers from the smallest which contained 3 families to the largest, the Intrepide at 74 families. 150 families in all. In company with Charles were: Marie David, his wife, and Francois, his son. All persons travelled 3rd class except for a few notables on board such as the Governor of Acadia. The ship also carried all their worldly possessions free of charge.

2. Louis Viollet/Violet, Charles' father and the 1st of our line as we know was married to Marie Doux in Villejesus, France January 7, 1715. Marie Doux, his wife, was born in Villejesus, July 1686 and was the daughter of Louis Doux and Jeanne Riet or Priet.*

3. Charles and Marie David were wed in Saintes, France, December 6, 1741. This was her second marriage and she had a son named Alexis from the first. The name was not Plairet as we had deciphered but it was Hilaret. Marie David was born in the parish of Sainte Vivien, Saintes, May 10, 1705.

4. Francois was born in Saintes, France October 16, 1744.

5. Charles had a son previous to Francois and named Helie. He was born in Saintes July 23, 1743. We assume that he died before the departure of Charles for Acadia. As yet we have no knowledge on him.

6. Charles returned to France to La Rochelle then Rochefort last place of his known existence in 1759 and it is assumed he and his children all born in Louisbourg of his second marriage went with him. He is known to have taken residence in Rochefort with his wife on March 1, 1759. His family included: Therese Born 4-22-1752 Louisbourg and died Jan 31, 1753. Hierome was born June 17, 1753. Marie Ann Francoise born Aug 21, 1755.

* The final report is not in on Louis and Marie Doux because of conflicting information. There is a possibility that he married Marie LeDoux and that would be cause for the involvement of another date. However, we are on the threshold of new discoveries in France in view of the contacts made recently with George Viollet, 87, of Angouleme who is reputed to be a direct descendant of our line and through him we may yet ascertain the correct information. A Louis Viollet was married to Suzanne Picard in 1724. This does not seem to be the one we seek.

As an aside, a trip to France was mentioned at the Reunion. It is scheduled for October 6 through the 22nd and the undersigned will visit all the cities involved in our background as well as meet some of our "cousins" who stayed behind and evolved from our original line. In other information, just this last week I received word from my friend and "honorary" Violette, Claude Meche who lives in Paris, France, who stated that he had documented proof of Charles birth in Villejesus and he has the date of birth but is reserving this information for my tour in France. A breakthrough seems eminent. We will keep you advised.

MAURICE VIOLETTE
Chairman, 1979 Reunion
Augusta, Maine